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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST-NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/040,628	01/09/2002	Toshiya Waku	218048US2S	3024
22850	7590	01/05/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.			COBANOGLU, DILEK B	
1940 DUKE STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			3626	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/05/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/040,628	WAKU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dilek B. Cobanoglu	3626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 October 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 18-34 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 18-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/09/2002.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the amendment received on 10/11/2006.

Claims 1-17 have been cancelled. Claims 18-34 have been newly added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 18-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by

Hendrickson et al. (hereinafter Hendrickson) (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,800).

A. As per newly added claim 29, Hendrickson discloses a method of managing various works each of which is performed by using at least one medical equipment and relates to one patient or one medical examination, the method comprising:

- i. generating a stream list which includes a plurality of stream information defining a flow of work processes performed in one work (Hendrickson; col. 2, lines 11-26); and
- ii. displaying the stream list on a display unit of the at least one medical equipment (Hendrickson; col. 3, lines 56-67, fig. 2).

B. As per newly added claim 30, Hendrickson discloses the method according to claim 29, further comprising:

- i. selecting a work process displayed by the display unit (Hendrickson; col. 6, lines 20-24); and
- ii. controlling the at least one medical equipment to execute the selected work process (Hendrickson; col. 3, lines 28-35).

C. As per newly added claim 31, Hendrickson discloses the method according to claim 29, further comprising:

- i. updating the stream list on the basis of a progress situation of works performed in the at least one medical equipment (Hendrickson; col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 14); and
- ii. displaying the updated stream list on a display unit of the at least one medical equipment (Hendrickson; col. 6, lines 31-36).

D. As per newly added claim 32, Hendrickson discloses the method according to claim 31, further comprising transmitting the updated stream list to the at least one medical equipment (Hendrickson; col. 6, lines 48-61).

E. As per newly added claim 33, Hendrickson discloses the method according to claim 29, further comprising modifying the stream list on the basis of an input instruction (Hendrickson; col. 6, lines 48-61).

F. As per newly added claim 34, Hendrickson discloses the method according to claim 29, wherein in displaying the stream list, the stream list is displayed in such a manner so as to blind predetermined contents included in the stream list on the basis of a predetermined condition (Hendrickson; col. 5, lines 33-45).

G. As per claims 18-23 and 24-28, they are system claims, which repeat the same limitations of claims 29-34, the corresponding method claims, as a collection of elements as opposed to a series of process steps. Since the teachings of Hendrickson disclose the underlying process steps that constitute the methods of claims 29-34, it is respectfully submitted that they provide the underlying structural elements that perform the steps as well. As such, the limitations of claims 18-23 and 24-28 are rejected for the same reasons given above for claims 29-34.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 18-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

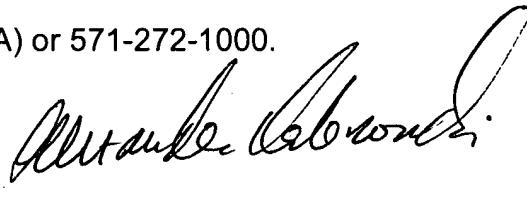
Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

6. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dilek B. Cobanoglu whose telephone number is 571-272-8295. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.
8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


DBC
Art Unit 3626
12/15/2006



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